approved by the National Development Council, gives the target for employment creation in different sectors, in Chapter 5, Volume I.

(c) to (e) Tenth Plan has identified labour intensives sectors such as Agriculture and Allied activities, Food Processing, Rural Non Farm Activities, Small and Medium Enterprises and Services sector, including Health, Nutrition, Education and Information Technology, for employment generation.

Union Government is implementing a number of policies and programmes particularly for the benefit of the North-Eastern States, which include; transport subsidy scheme, industrial policy package for North-Eastern Region and technology mission for integrated development of horticulture in North Eastern States. A non-lapsable Central pool of resources for the North-Eastern States and Sikkim has been created with the approval of the Parliament. This pool, meant for funding development projects in these States, fills the resource gap in creation of new infrastructures in the North-Eastern Region. Assets and institutions created through such programmes contribute to increase in employment opportunities for the youth.

People Below Poverty Line

†1799. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 41.4 crore people in India are living under the Below Poverty Line as per a report of the World Bank; and

(b) if so, the action plan with the Government to redress this problem alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir. According to the lastest World Bank Report (World Developments Indicators, 2004), during 1999-2000, 34.7 percentage of the population in India were living on less than $1.08 a day at 1993 international prices. It implies that 34.7 crore people of India were living under the Below Poverty Line according to International Poverty Line of $1 a day during 1999-2000. (India's population during 1999-2000 was 1001 million).

(b) The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti poverty programmes.

In order to take care of basic needs of India's poor at the village level, an initiative in the form of Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) was launched. The PMGY envisages Additional Central Assistance for selected basic minimum services in order to focus on certain priority areas of the Government. These include primary health, primary education, rural shelter, drinking water, rural electrification and nutrition.

In addition, with effect from June, 1997 the Public Distribution System in India was streamlined by issuing special cards to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) and selling food grains under PDS to them at specially subsidised prices which was about 50% of the economic costs. Under the new scheme, *viz.*, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) each poor family is entitled to 35 kgs. to foodgrains.

In order to make the TPDS more focused and targeted towards the very poor category, the "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs. of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. In the recent budget presented on 28-02-05 it was announced that the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana will be increased from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005.

People living Below Poverty Line in Uttar Pradesh

†1800. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people living below the poverty line in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of the families which were brought above the poverty line in the last three years after the efforts made by Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from the large sample survey on household

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